



For the Proprietor of
HONGKONG TELEGRAPH,
For and on behalf of
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FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 1950.

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New Appointment For General Sir Brian Robertson

London, Mar. 16.—General Sir Brian Robertson, the British High Commissioner in Germany, has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Middle East Land Forces. The appointment was approved by the King.

He will be succeeded as High Commissioner by a civilian, Sir Ivone Kirkpatrick, Under-Secretary in charge of the German Department at the Foreign Office.

The Foreign Office and War Office announcement reporting General Robertson's appointment said that he will succeed General Sir John T. Crocker in about June. General Crocker is to be Adjutant-General of the Forces in September.

General Robertson was a Cadet at Sandhurst—Britain's famous military college—when the 1914-18 War broke out. His father was Field Marshal Sir William Robertson—the first soldier in the British Army to rise from a private to the rank of a Field Marshal.

WITH EIGHTH ARMY

General Robertson served in the Army throughout the first World War and for some time after, but in 1933, after his father died and he succeeded to the title, he went into business as an official of the Dunlop Rubber Company in South Africa.

When war broke out in 1939, General Robertson joined the South African forces. His reputation went higher and higher—through the campaigns in Italian Somaliland and Abyssinia—until in June, 1942, he

was made Deputy Adjutant and Quartermaster General to Britain's crack Eighth Army. He went with the Eighth Army all the way to El Alamein. His administrative qualities were picked out again when he was made Governor of Tripoli. He built up the civilian services in this battle-torn area.

He finished the war as Field Marshal Alexander's chief administrative officer in Sicily and Italy, and was appointed Chief of Staff under Field Marshal Montgomery in 1945.

In postwar Germany he got one of the most exacting jobs that has ever faced a British military man—administering the British Zone with its millions of war-shocked people and shattered cities and communications.

Tall, spare and with piercing blue eyes and fair hair, he was an authoritarian and dominating personality. He dealt fairly but firmly with the Germans.

He was Britain's "No. 1 Khaki Diplomat."—Reuter.

**Malaya Rubber
For Russia**

Penang, Mar. 16.—Malaya is to send Russia some 15,000 tons of rubber this month.

One ship is loading about 8,000 tons from Malayan ports this week and another is due to take another consignment next week.

Both ships are destined for Odessa.

According to official Penang trade statistics, Russia re-entered the local rubber market last month, purchasing 1,083 tons.—Reuter.

RIOTS CASUALTIES

New Delhi, Mar. 16.—A government spokesman said today that at least 600 Hindus were killed on the East Bengal railway between Jamalpur and Baharampur in recent rioting between Moslems and Hindus. He added: "Travelling Hindus will not be safe on this line."—United Press.

Improved Situation Permits Reduction Of HK Garrison

The military authorities consider that the situation in South China has improved sufficiently to warrant a slight reduction in Hongkong's garrison in order to meet military needs elsewhere, said the official Army spokesman this morning.

Discussing the decision to transfer the 26th Infantry Brigade from Hongkong to Malaya to help in the anti-bandit campaign there, the spokesman said the move can be regarded as a permanent one and, according to present plans, the Brigade will not be replaced by other troops.

He pointed out, however, that should the need arise, the Brigade could easily be recalled from Malaya.

No date has yet been set for the Brigade's departure, as transport facilities and arrangements for its reception in Malaya will first have to be settled. The 26th Infantry Brigade consists of the 2/6 and 2/10 Gurkha Rifles and the 1st Battalion, Cameronians.

Departure of this Brigade will still leave about 28,000 troops in Hongkong.

Seretse Khama To Be Allowed, Temporarily, To Return To His Tribe

London, Mar. 16.—Britain's Labour Government, attacked from all sides over the Seretse Khama affair, agreed today to let the exiled African go back temporarily to the Bamangwato tribe and his pregnant English wife.

It also announced that a White Paper would be published, lifting the veil from many of the reasons why Seretse, chieftain-designate of the tribe, has been banned from his home for five years.

The Commonwealth Minister, Mr. Patrick Gordon-Walker, told Parliament that 27-year-old Seretse would be allowed to return from London to Bechuanaland to collect evidence for a law-suit about his inheritance.

But the Government has not climbed down over the ban on Seretse, whose troubles began when his uncle, Tshekedi, former Regent of the tribe, declared a feud over his nephew's marriage to a white girl.

Tshekedi has also been banned for five years by the Government.

The Minister, who faced hostility from a number of the

Government's own supporters, declared that the length of the Liberal motion calling for Seretse Khama's exile to be reconsidered.

Mr Herbert Morrison, leader of the House, thought that it would be better to await the publication of the Government's White Paper early next week. The House could then review it all after a debate.

Mr Davies agreed to this.

SERETSE'S REACTION

Seretse Khama said tonight that he would probably fly to South Africa on Monday on the plane on which the Government had booked him a seat.

He added, however, "The idea of going home as a prisoner in my own country, not having committed a crime, does not appeal to me very much."

"I should like to have gone unconditionally, but there are certain terms unacceptable."

He declined to state what the terms were, but intimated that he would continue to fight the Government's five-year ban.—Reuter.

\$3 Mil. Loan For Our Airport

London, Mar. 16.—The British Government has made token provision for a £3,000,000 loan to the Hongkong Government to meet expenditure on the construction of an air port, the Civil Estimates for 1950-51, which were published today.

A Government statement would be issued as soon as possible setting out in greater detail the facts and considerations that led the Government to its decision to withhold recognition.

Mr. Gordon-Walker, answering questions, made it clear that Seretse Khama would be allowed to return to the tribal reserve to take personal evidence for his law-suit.

RECOGNITION WITHHELD

The Minister also said that it had been decided to withhold recognition of Seretse Khama as chief. That implied that it had not been decided to refuse recognition.

Later, when the House was discussing next week's Parliamentary business, the Liberal leader, Mr. Clement Davies

discussed the matter with the Foreign Office.

The loan will be free of interest and the terms of repayment will be settled later.

It is not required immediately, but token provision is made in order that Parliament's approval of arrangements may be obtained.

The Estimates include £150,000 of a grant of £250,000 in respect of the University of Hongkong.—Reuter.

Chinese Reds Take Mr Keswick's S'hai Houses Away From Him

Mrs. Claire Keswick is wondering where she will live in Shanghai when she rejoins her husband there early next week.

Her husband, Mr. John Keswick, head of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co., Ltd., owns two palatial houses in the Hungtse district of Shanghai,

but they have both been requisitioned by the Chinese Communist authorities to accommodate Russian advisers,

who are said to be pouring into China since the conclusion of the Sino-Soviet treaty.

Mr. Keswick is leaving Hongkong tomorrow by the General Gordon, which is ex-

pected to take away 1,600 foreign residents from China.

The day, however, will be tinged with sadness for Mrs. Keswick, for this will be saying goodbye to her eight-year-old daughter, Margaret, who is returning on the same day to England by the ss Canton to continue her schooling.

Mr. Keswick is at present in Tientsin but is expected to return to Shanghai in time to meet his wife. Since his two houses were requisitioned, he has taken a flat in town. It is understood,

News leaking through the Chinese "Bamboo Curtain" says the Chinese Communists have

taken over 2,000 houses near Shanghai's Hungtse airfield for the use of the Russian

advisers. Among the houses belonging to Britons that have been taken over is "The Limit," the last house on the highway before the airfield, belonging to Bill Hawkins, who with his wife, Gladys, have lived there over 30 years.

Gladys Hawkins refused to budge from the property last summer when the Nationalists were preparing their "last ditch" defence, which proved more impressive in propaganda releases than in actual practice.

She kept the Union Jack flying from her garden for over 30 years, despite many upheavals,

but from the flagstaff now flies the Hammer and Sickle of the USSR.

Today's weather: Moderate or fresh east winds. Cloudy, rather milder.
 Noon Observations: Barometric pressure, 1019.8 mbs. 30.10 in. Temperature, 67.5 deg. F. Dew point, 57 deg. F. Relative humidity, 71%. Wind direction, ESE. Wind force, 7 km/h.
 High water: 6 ft. 9 in at 9:08 p.m. Low water: 7 ft. 1 in at 2:27 p.m.

Dine
At the

P.G.

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Reservations

Tel: 27880

Britain To Spend More On Colonies

London, Mar. 16.—Britain will spend £5,846,500 more on developing her Colonies in the next 12 months, but the grant to Malaya in aid of local revenues is cut by £2,000,000, bringing it down to £3,000,000.

This was announced today with the publication of Government estimates for the Foreign and Imperial Services in the financial year ending March 31, 1951.

The extra money for Colonial development is the biggest item in an overall increase in the services of £13,787,045. The total estimate is £20,019,045. Of this, £19,160,000 will be spent on opening up the resources of the Colonies and improving the welfare of their people.

The next largest increase is £5,443,330 for the general working of the Colonial and Middle East services for which the total estimate is £10,453,770. The main item under this heading is £5,050,000 for war damage compensation schemes in the Far Eastern territories.

On the domestic side, Britain will step up her civil defence costs by £2,316,000 next year. The total bill for England and Wales will be £6,104,270. The cost of training civil defence workers will be down by £272,300, but grants to local authorities will be up £1,530,400.—Reuter.

Untouchability An Offence

New Delhi, Mar. 16.—The government indicated today that those who continued to practise untouchability, which was abolished by India's new constitution, might soon be liable to prosecution. The announcement said: "The government is considering framing legislation prescribing punishment for offences arising from the practice of untouchability. A bill to this effect will be introduced during the current session of Parliament."—United Press.

BLAZE ON ROOF OF HOTEL

The Fire Brigade were called to the Great Eastern Hotel, Connaught Road Central, shortly before 9:30 o'clock this morning when a blaze was reported to have broken out on the roof. The firemen discovered that a large basket had caught alight and the flames, which gave rise to some alarm, were quickly extinguished with little damage being done to the establishment.

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7.20 & 9.30 P.M.



ALSO LATEST PARAMOUNT NEWS

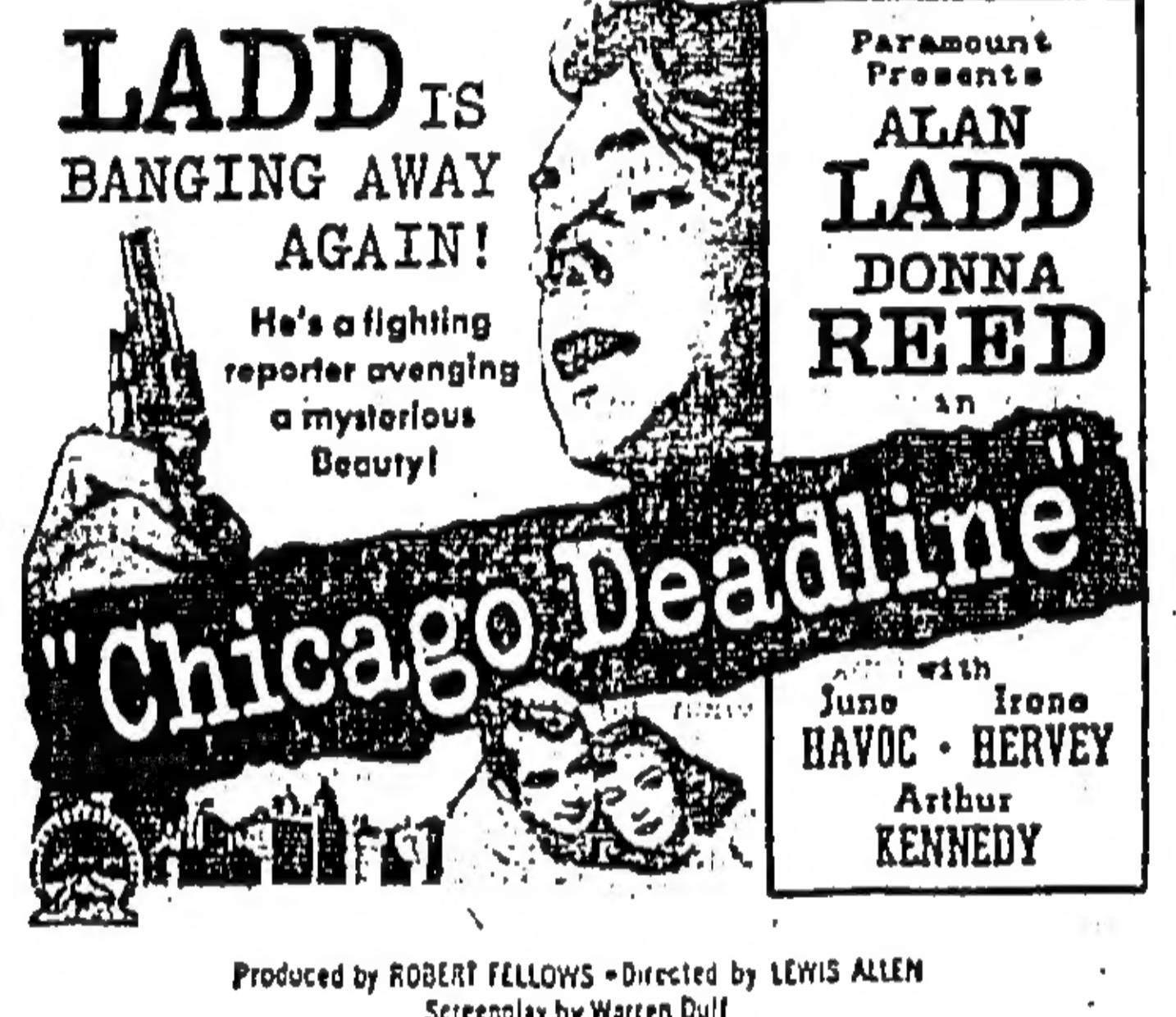
TO-MORROW



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7.20 & 9.30 P.M.DAILY AT 2.30, 5.30,
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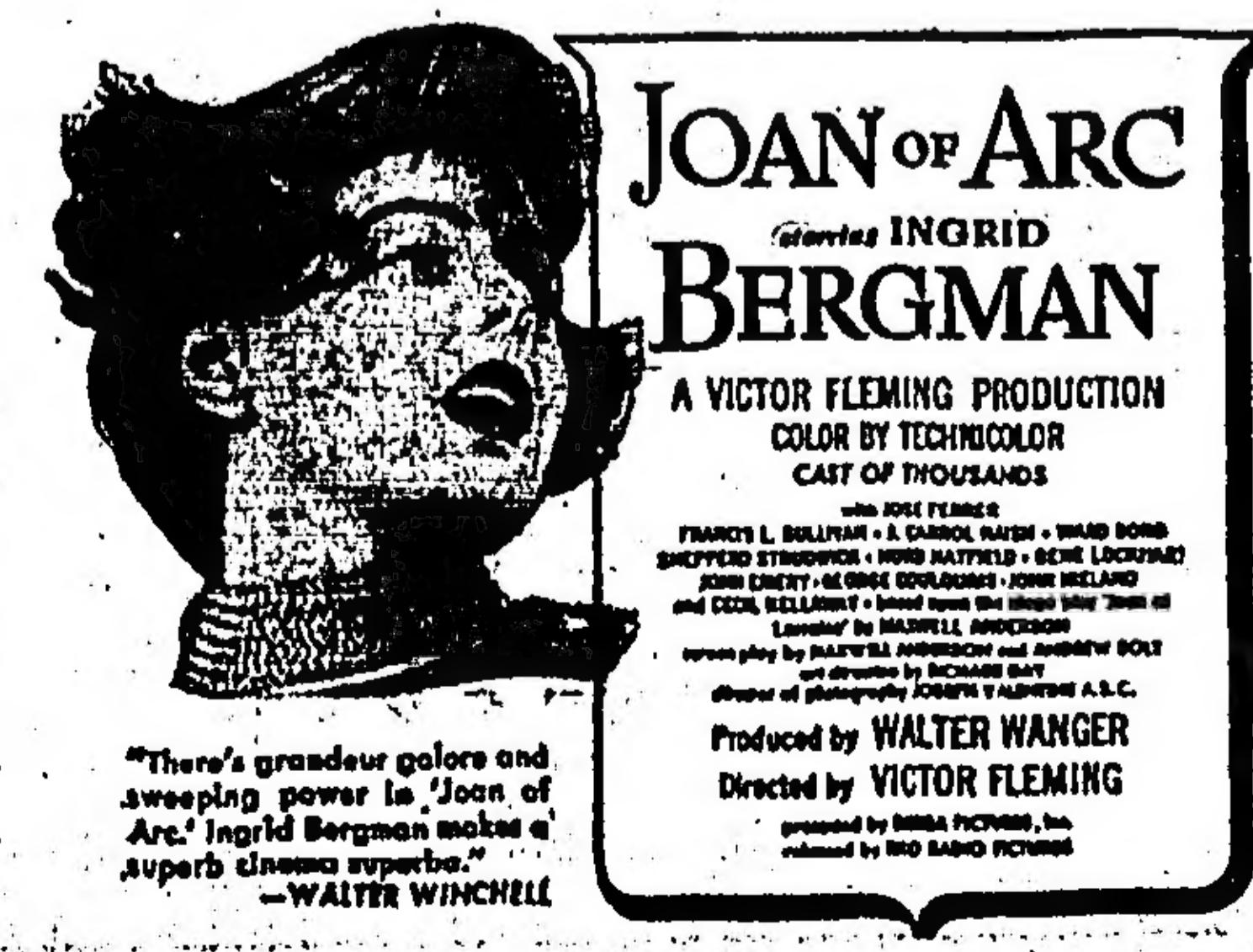
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SHOWING TO-DAY: 2.30—5.30—7.30 & 9.30 P.M.
UNIVERSAL'S MOST EXCITING FILM OF THE SEASON

SHOWING TO-DAY MAJESTIC SHOWING TO-DAY

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF TIME:

AT 2.00, 4.45, 7.15 & 9.45 P.M.



WOMANSENSE

Seen At Buckingham Palace

WINSTON CHURCHILL . . . The Voice in the darkness for a France oppressed . . . It was the name on the lips of the President of France, M. Vincent Auriol, at Buckingham Palace when he replied to a toast by the King at the state banquet given in his honour on March 7.

The toast was given in the ballroom. The King said in French: "I raise my glass to your health and that of Mme. Auriol, as well as to the prosperity and happiness of France."

And M. Auriol replied: "We shall not forget those long and painful hours when the whole of France, oppressed and tortured, struggled in the dark to prepare the liberation of the morrow listening to the dauntless voice of Winston Churchill hurling at the enemy the inspired defiance of a united Britain."

The man M. Auriol spoke about sat on the right-hand wing-table. Winston Churchill was one of the 100 guests at tables set out with pieces of silver gilt plate.

At the top table, from left to right, were the Duchess of Kent, the Prime Minister (Mr Attlee), the Duchess of Gloucester, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Princess Elizabeth, M. Schuman;

and then—

Hollywood's New Bow Tie King

HOLLYWOOD,

JUST for being the new bow tie king, Kirk Douglas will get himself a sure \$300,000 during the next four years.

This is the guarantee in a deal Kirk has signed with a combine of bow tie manufacturers to ballyhoo their product. The deal is for 10 years. Kirk may make a million. The smaller amount is in the bag.

So, where Frank Sinatra once set the fashion in bow ties, Kirk now takes over. He agrees to wear at least one bow tie in each of his pictures providing it isn't a costume story. He'll also wear them in publicity stills and, as much as possible, in public.

Pretty soft way to make \$300,000.

The operation on Ann Sothern was delicate surgery but came out fine.

Ann had a small calcified tumor near her thyroid gland and pressing on a nerve vital to the vocal chords. "Her trouble wasn't toxic, it was mechanical," says Dr Bill Branch. "When she talked, she got voice fatigue."

With the operation, the condition has been corrected, according to Dr Branch.

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Lovely Pearl Petals



By ALICE ALDEN

A FINE PEARL of little price of seed pearl beads centre the is likely to be just that—a nice necklace with four large pearl piece of costume jewellery, drops cascading from delicate executed with imagination and gold chains to point up the charm. Coro designs a dramatic square necklace. The pearl piece to complement a low flower motif is repeated in the necklace. Flower petals made earrings and bracelet.

Drawn
by ROBB

bandeau and ornament of diamonds.

Princess Elizabeth wore a satin gown in palest green.

The Queen wore a crinoline gown of crisp white tulie mounted over silver tissue. The bodice and skirt were embroidered in a design of silver feathers, each feather ending in a mottled rubies to tone perfectly.

Princess Margaret was absent.

She was in bed with influenza.

BOBB draws the Royal Family dresses, specially

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designed to set-off the ruby-red French decoration, Legion of Honour.

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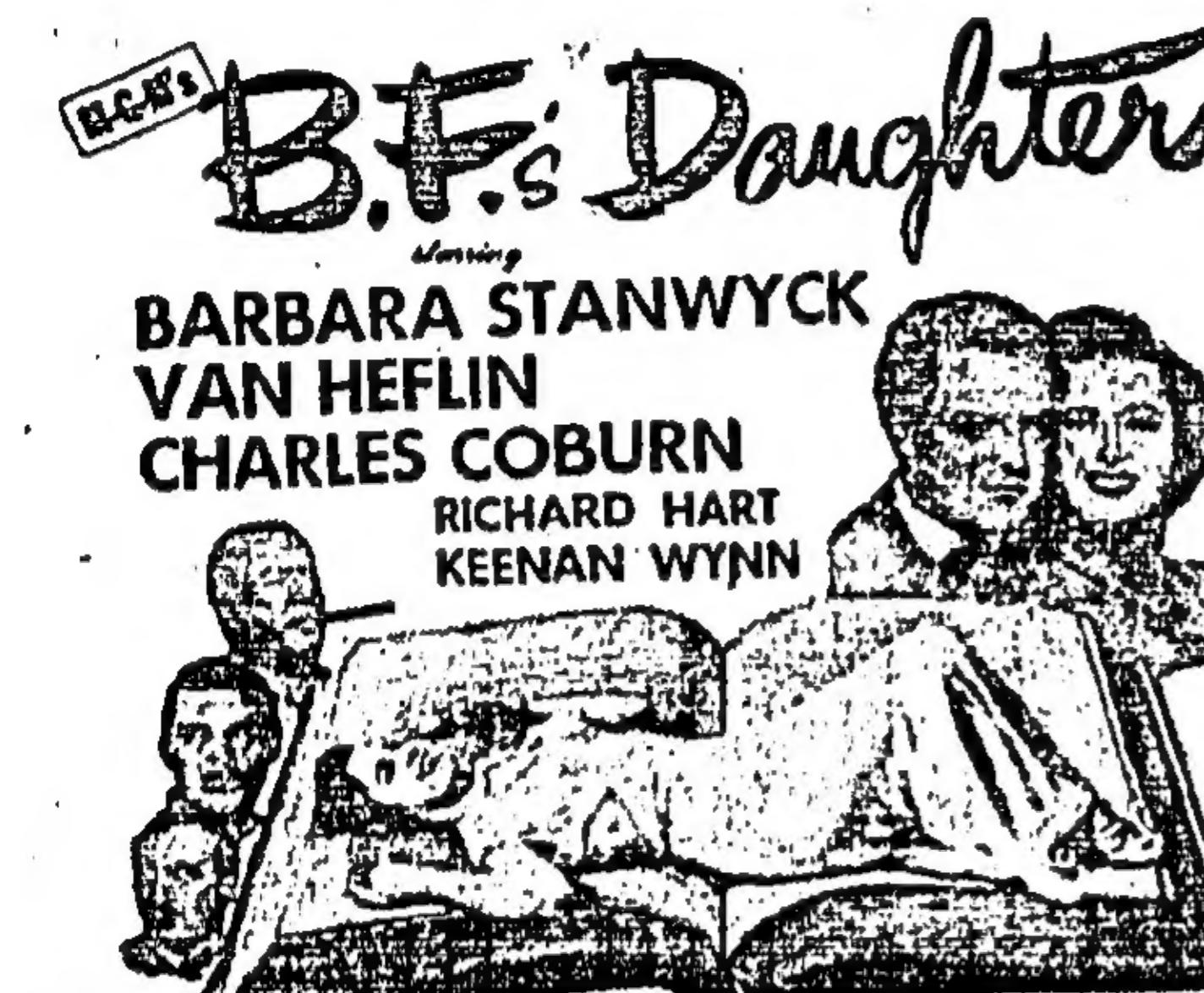
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QUEENS & ALHAMBRA

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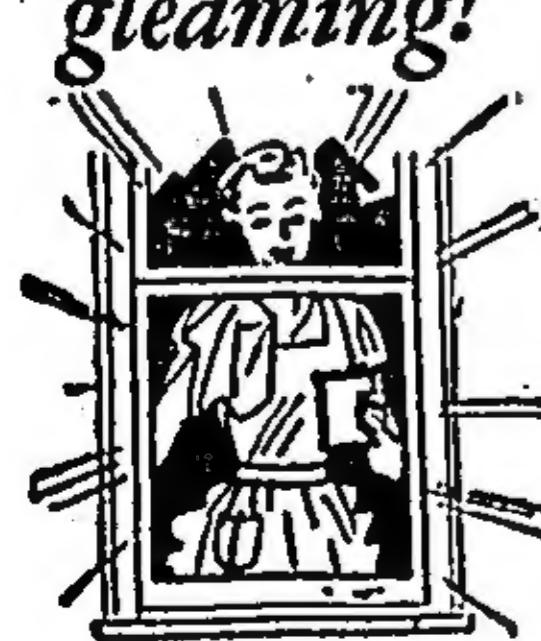
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NANCY Hit and Run



By Ernie Bushmiller



She had herself sentenced to death as ‘a huge joke’

By Sidney Rodin

THE only British woman sentenced to death for spying during the war was released from Aylesbury Gaol a few days ago after serving nine years of a 14-year sentence.

Immediately on release she told an almost incredible story.

She said that in fact she had never done any spying; that the whole episode was “a huge joke”—a piece of exhibitionism on her part. That being sentenced to death gave her the biggest thrill in her life.

The woman concerned is Mrs. Dorothy Pamela O'Grady, now 52 years old, formerly a boarding-house keeper at Osborne Villa, Sandown, Isle of Wight.

She has gone back to Osborne Villa to reopen her boarding house.

Her ‘tales’

Let Mrs. O'Grady tell her story in her own words:-

“Since I was a child I have loved to make up tales and pretend I have done things that I have not done out of love of shocking people.

“At school I once wrote on pieces of paper that I had killed my mother. I hid them about the place hoping they would be found and that they would hang me. Yet I was very fond of my mother.

“When the war began all my guests left Osborne Villa, and my husband, who is now 72, took a fireman's job in London. I was all alone except for my black retriever Rob.

At the beach

“The island was full of soldiers and most of the sea front was prohibited to residents. But the summer was hot, and I continued to take my dog for his swim.

“I walked miles to get the better of the soldiers in order to reach the beach.

“Gun emplacements were everywhere, and one day in July I got to the beach at Whitecliff Bay, near Bembridge.

“I was sitting reading when two soldiers appeared.

“They asked me what I was doing there, and then one of them, a sergeant, noticed a small paper swastika pinned under the lapel of my coat.

“It came from the Daily Express war map, with which little coloured flags were provided for marking the changes in the front.

Checked up

“The swastika flag must have stuck to my hair as I bent down to pick something up in front of the map. As I walked I felt it in my hair and quite naturally pulled it out and put it under my lapel.

“When the police took me to Yarmouth Police Station they found my maps and sketches in my handbag, and also a false identity card. I thought I had lost my card a few weeks before and obtained a new one.

“Then I found the old one and took great delight in rubbing out my name and substituting a false one, with a London address.

“I was kept three months in Hollywood Gaol, in London, and interrogated for long periods. My chief interrogator from MI5 kept asking to whom I gave my information.

“I refused to say. Earlier, however, I had made up the yarn that a submarine used to appear off the Isle of Wight at night and a German came ashore in a rubber dinghy.

“To my huge delight the constable wrote all this down.

“Now I began to enter into the lark in earnest. I had guide maps of the island which I used to give to my guests and I began marking them with military objectives.

“I was nearly a casualty in a daylight bombing attack on the Royal Marine Hotel, Ventnor. I bought a postcard showing the hotel, which I marked, for I knew it stood above a military billet.

“The trial lasted two days. Although right inside me was scared I enjoyed every moment of it.

“I learned that because of my maps most of the defence plans for the island had been changed.

“That is the story as Mrs. Dorothy O'Grady told it to me.

Readers who may doubt her sanity should know that at no material time has it been doubted.

When she had been in prison four years she was seen by Dr. Jean Durrant, a psychiatrist.

Dr. Durrant is not at liberty to discuss individual cases. But when I saw her at home in Chelsea she said to me: “No person certified as insane would be kept at Holloway or Aylesbury.”

The truth

What further light can Mrs. O'Grady herself throw on her past?

With what I judged to be complete frankness she said:

“Perhaps I have some mental kink, which took hold of me at the time because I was alone amid the continual noise of guns and the droneing of planes.

“All my life I had never been anything. I have always been insignificant. I never had a close friend even at school.

“I felt tremendously bucked when I saw that they thought me clever enough to be a spy. It made me feel somebody instead of just an ordinary seaside lady.

“Yet I was astonished when they believed it all. I never imagined they would.

“But I consider it better that people on the Isle of Wight who doubted me should now know the truth. Better to be thought a fool than a traitor.”

A Home Office official to whom the statement was submitted said: “The question whether Mrs. O'Grady's explanation of her conduct is feasible is not one on which the Home Office can properly express an opinion as she was tried in open court.”

In the history of Aylesbury Gaol no woman has ever served so long a sentence—not even those in “for life.” They are usually released after five years.

—London Express Service.

Urgent Churchill Call For Action On Defence

Catholic Leader Ordered Out

Prague, Mar. 16.—The Czechoslovak Government this afternoon ordered Monsignor Ottavio de Liva to leave the country within three days. It was officially announced tonight. Monsignor de Liva is the Secretary of the Papal Pronunciata in Prague.

The note accused him of carrying on subversive activities.

The note said that the higher Church hierarchy in Czechoslovakia had for a considerable time past been misusing the Catholic Church here for anti-State activity.—Reuter.

SHARP CANBERRA FLARE-UP

Canberra, Mar. 16.—The debate flared up anew today in the Australian House of Representatives over why Japanese war criminal suspects were released by the Labour government, which left office last December.

Mr. P. C. Spender, Minister of External Affairs, charged that Mr. Chifley's government played politics and told the assembled bludge. "The conduct of the Chifley government regarding Japanese war trials was disgraceful. They should have been prosecuted."

Wartime pilot B. Graham (Liberal) angrily declared: "The Japanese are sub-human creatures. Their complete elimination as a race would in no way detract from the future prospect of the world's development and prosperity. There are members here with deep loathing and hatred for the Japanese after personal contact with them."

Mr. Josiah Francis, Minister for the Army and Air Force, declared that the Chifley government was warned that if nothing were done about Japanese war prisoners, General Douglas MacArthur would be forced to release the suspects. Holding a sheet of paper in his hand, he said: "It is a cabinet document which recommended to the Chifley cabinet that no further action be taken."

Mr. Chifley retorted: "That was never adopted."

Mr. Francis continued: "It is obvious from the files that the former Army Minister, Mr. Cyril Chambers, and the former Defence Minister, Mr. J. J. Deegan, quarrelled on the issue of the war trials."

Mr. Chifley, in his own defense, said, "Lack of accommodation in various Eastern places was the main reason why the trials were delayed." His government first wanted Hongkong, but facilities were not available there. He then sought to stage the trials in Japan, but the authorities there declined. Mr. Chifley said his government finally suggested Darwin, Australia, but this proved unsatisfactory.—United Press.

Funeral Service For Rev H.R. Wells

A funeral service will be held for the late Rev H. R. Wells, O.B.E., 87-year-old missionary and Chinese scholar, who died last night at the Queen Mary Hospital following a street accident, at 1 p.m. on Sunday at the Hop Yat Church, Bonham Road. The service, which will be in Chinese, will be conducted by the Rev. Cheung Chuk-ling.

Following the service, the cortège will proceed to the Colonial Cemetery, Happy Valley, where burial will take place.

The late Rev. Mr. Wells was knocked down by a tramcar in Des Voeux Road Central on Wednesday morning, and suffered a fractured skull.

The aged missionary first arrived in China in 1897, and shortly afterwards joined the staff of the London Missionary Society. He came to Hongkong in 1903, and retired from the Society in 1930.

Mr. Wells has had a long association with the Chinese churches in the Colony.

He was also well-known for his publication of many Chinese books, and especially for his "Cantoneso For Everyone," an easy guide to foreigners' deadlock of learning the Cantonese tongue.

It is requested that no flowers be sent, but donations in lieu of flowers of the Society for the Protection of Children and the Faring Babies Home will be welcome.

POWERFUL SPEECH IN COMMONS

London, Mar. 16.—The Defence Minister, Mr. Emanuel Shinwell, opening a defence debate in the House of Commons today, said that progress had certainly been made with the Commonwealth countries towards the close working partnership on defence matters which the Government regarded as their goal.

They would continue to study matters of mutual concern as they affected the different members of the Commonwealth.

"We shall also continue to meet, to the maximum possible extent, requests for assistance in building up the fighting services of the other Commonwealth countries. There is, in addition, a constant flow of officers and other ranks of the three Services on loan, on exchange or on courses," he said.

Mr. Shinwell said that the Commonwealth countries were being invited to a meeting of the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on defence defence in Britain during the summer for discussion on a wide range of subjects.

On the atomic bomb, and "its more deadly development, the hydrogen bomb," Mr. Shinwell said: "We know that Soviet Russia made progress more rapidly than at one time seemed likely."

The Americans continued to develop the knowledge required to improve on earlier designs.

Britain was following her own programme.

Substantial progress was being made in military planning to translate the North Atlantic Pact into practical measures. Britain expected to receive a substantial number of American B-29 aircraft this year.

The large quantities of military equipment Britain had transferred to North Atlantic Treaty countries had resulted in increased defensive strength.

GERMAN AID

Speaking in the debate, Mr. Winston Churchill, leader of the Opposition, said that the active aid of Western Germany was essential to the defensive plans of the Atlantic Pact nations.

"But for that there would be no hope that Europe could preserve its freedom or that our island could escape an ordeal incomparably more severe than that we have endured."

"Let us, therefore, labour for peace, not only by insuring our defence in strength, but also by making sure that no door is closed to any hope of reaching a settlement in this tragic period when two worlds face one another in increasing strain and anxiety."—Reuter.

SHIP ABANDONED

Suez, Mar. 16.—The 5,500-ton Norwegian motorship Taiwan has been abandoned in a sinking condition off St John's Island in the Red Sea, according to a signal from Captain Birkeeland to the ship's agents.

The message added that all 42 crew, including the captain's wife and two stewards, were safe on board the 3,062-ton British freighter Mathura, of Liverpool.

The Taiwan was bound for Scandinavia from the Persian Gulf.—Reuter.

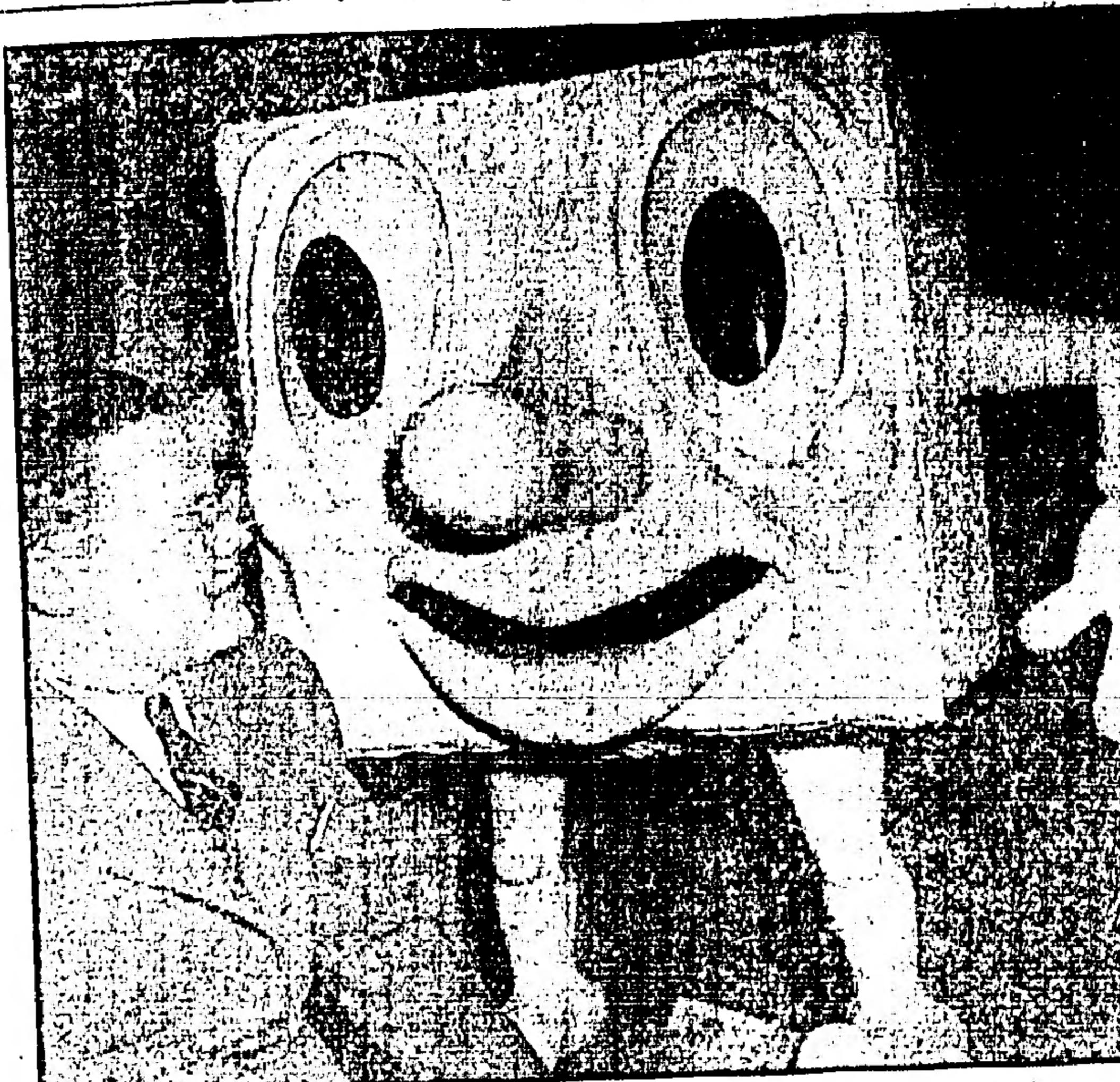
SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



"Well, there they are! Didn't I tell you if we moved south your relatives would swoop down on us every winter?"

Mr. Cube Can Now See, Sing And Make A Speech



U.S. Naval Chiefs Insist On Need For Preparedness

Washington, Mar. 16.—The Navy Secretary, Mr. Francis Mathews, told the House Appropriations Committee that it would be "complete folly to contemplate anything less than adequate military preparedness in view of the hostile forces loose in the world today."

In testimony released today by the Appropriations Committee, Mr. Mathews said: "Aggressive Communist expansion in the Far East continues. The economic and political situation in Central and Western Europe, although improved, is not yet stabilised. Countries in the Middle East need the help and support of the Western world if they are to retain their independence."

The naval Chief of Operations, Admiral Forrest Sherman, told the Committee the Navy's budget had been made up "after a great deal of thought on the international situation and the likelihood of hostilities."

He said the Chinese Nationalists still had 600,000 troops under their command and 300,000 of them were first-class fighting men. He repeated his proposal that the State Department discuss with the island countries of the Pacific an alliance against Communism.

In answer to Committee questions, he could "give no guarantee" that war would not break out during 1951. Questioned about the effects on the United States' security of the military assistance programme, Admiral Sherman said: "During the past two years I have watched improvement in the situation in France to a degree and more importantly in Italy and Greece . . . in Greece, particularly, the operation included economic aid, direct military aid and indirect military aid by the maintenance of a fleet in the Mediterranean. They all played a part in ending active guerrilla warfare in Greece and in the maintenance of our position in Trieste and success in Italy."—United Press.

Found Guilty Of Manslaughter

Sydney, Nova Scotia, Mar. 16.—The jury today found Ian Jack Maclean, 65-year-old ex-Mayor, guilty of manslaughter in the death on December 18 of Joseph Mackinnon, crippled vote registrar.—United Press.

Battle With Famine In Red China

San Francisco, March 16.—Peking radio claimed that an unprecedented grain distribution scheme is now under way designed to avert the famine which, Mr. Acheson yesterday said, is likely to affect forty million Chinese.

The broadcast contended that the famine is the result of maldistribution rather than underproduction, although this is questioned by informed sources.

According to the radio, the Minister of Trade has statistics showing that there are "large grain surpluses" in Manchuria, Inner Mongolia, Central, South and South-West China. These surpluses would be adequate to meet shortages in Eastern China, which is the severest famine stricken area. The radio said railways, ships, and a large labour force are being mobilised to transport the grain from surplus to deficit areas.

"Already 60,000 tons of grain have reached Hopei province from Manchuria, and two thirds of Inner Mongolian surpluses have arrived in Peking. Great quantities of rice from Manchuria and the Yangtze basin are flowing into Shanghai."—United Press.

KING LEOPOLD TO ACCEPT VERDICT OF PARLIAMENT

Geneva, Mar. 16.—Exiled King Leopold stated today that the Belgian Parliament must decide whether he should return to the throne on the basis of Sunday's referendum which gave him 57.6% of the votes.

If Parliament—in which the Catholics who supported him fully are just short of an absolute majority—decided against his return, he was ready to retire, the 49-year-old King stated.

The declaration said, "It is the function of Parliament to take political responsibilities. As the organ of national sovereignty it is its duty—in virtue of the powers given it by the law of July 19, 1945—to find, without further delay, the solution to the present crisis."

It said that whatever decision Parliament may take he would bow before that decision.

He added that if the Assembly considered that his prerogatives should not be returned to him he would retire in order to preserve the country from serious political disorders.

"If, on the other hand," he said, "the Parliamentary Assembly, enlightened by the consultation, returns my prerogatives to me the principle of Parliamentary majority on which the regime is based will resume their work within the rigorously respected framework of the constitutional law."

LABOUR ATTITUDE

King Leopold's announcement followed three days of urgent consultations with Belgian political leaders, including the Catholic Prime Minister, M. Gaston Eyskens, at his lake-side villa at Prexny, near Geneva.

Prince Badouin, King Leopold's 19-year-old son, was believed to be attending the talks. He will succeed to the throne if his father abdicates.

Belgium's General Federation of Labour said to-day that its plans to stage a series of nationwide general strikes would go into action only if the King returned to the country without the consent of Parliament.

Before Leopold can return to the throne a joint session of both Houses of Parliament must be held and vote to repeal the legislation, passed in 1945, which established the Regency.

Both Houses separately must approve the holding of the joint session.—Reuter.

EMPIRE TRADE UNION LIAISON PLAN

London, Mar. 16.—A conference of Commonwealth union leaders at Geneva in June has been proposed by the British Trades Union Congress.

The T.U.C. General Secretary, Mr. Vincent Tewson, wrote to trade union movements in all the Commonwealth countries recently urging closer links between them and proposing a two-day conference in Geneva when Commonwealth union leaders are there next June for the International Labour conference.

The British T.U.C. has wanted for a long time to create a closer liaison with Commonwealth countries, as it considers that there are a number of subjects of particular interest to them on which there should be mutual understanding.

Replies have not yet been received from all those invited to take part in the proposed Geneva conference, but it is known that the New Zealand Federation of Labour wishes to be represented and the Australian T.U.C. has also shown a favourable first reaction.—Reuter.

Anti-T.B. Drive In S.E. Asia

Geneva, Mar. 16.—Dr Edmond McSweeney, of Dublin, has been appointed Adviser to the World Health Organisation's tuberculosis campaign in South-East Asia and will leave Geneva today for New Delhi, it was announced here today.

The Organisation also reported that its campaign against tuberculosis in South-East Asia was well under way. Three training centres have been established in India and other such centres are to follow shortly in Burma, Ceylon and Thailand.

Before joining the WHO, Dr McSweeney was Senior Medical Inspector in the Eireann Government's Department of Health, where he supervised the national tuberculosis services. Previously, he held medical posts in England, Iraq and Palestine as a member of the Royal Air Force.—Reuter.

Radio Hongkong

Hong Kong, Mar. 16.—"Hong Kong Calling" Programme Summary: 002, Children's Hour—Presented by Elizabeth Anne (Studio); "Song of the Month"—Given by Miss Lee Wan-lan and Mr. S. K. Lee (Studio); 030, Song by John McCormack (Tenor); 7, World News—Presented by Lester Loring (Relay); 7.15, "Milt Parade"; The Voice of America; 7.45, Studio Recital—Jan Hu (Tenor) with Piano Accompaniment by William Brown; 8, Entertainment (London Relay); 9.10, Radio News (Relay); 10, Radio News (Relay); 10.10, Weather Report; 10.10, "Composers of the Week"; 10.15, Classical and Light Classical Request Programme. Presented by Yvonne Charter (Studio); 0.30, "For You" from the Madding Crowd; 10.30, "The Voice of America"; 10.45, Studio Recital—Jan Hu (Tenor) with Piano Accompaniment by William Brown; 11, Entertainment (London Relay); 10, Radio News (Relay); 10.45, "Come into the Parlour"—Musical Selections from Northern Ireland (BBC); 11.15, Home News from Britain (London Relay Recorded); God Save the King; 11.30, Close Down.

ON WAY HOME

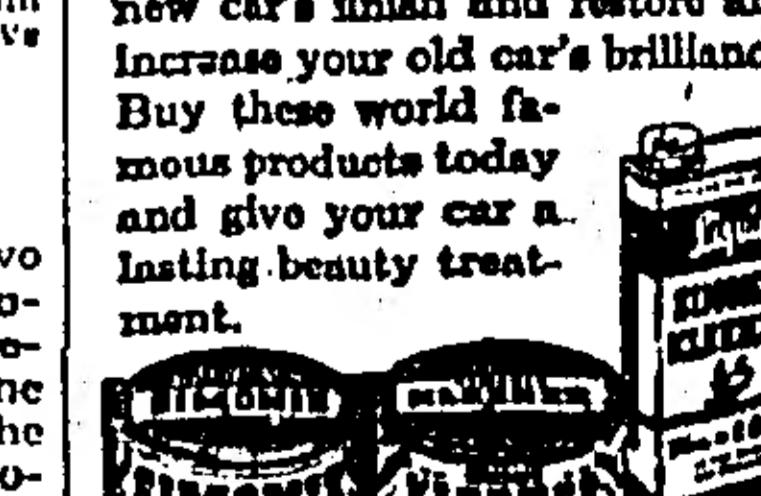
The Hague, Mar. 16.—The two women officials of the Czechoslovak Legation here, whose recall was demanded by the Dutch Government following the expulsion of three Dutch diplomats in Prague, were on their way home by train today.—Reuter.

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Lord Tedder To Head Staff Mission In U.S.

London, Mar. 16.—Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Tedder, wartime deputy to the Supreme Allied Commander, General Dwight Eisenhower, is to become Chairman of Britain's Joint Services Mission in Washington.

Announcing this in the House of Commons today, the Defence Minister, Mr. Emanuel Shinwell, said that the new post of overall permanent Chairman of Britain's Joint Staff Mission had been created to mark the "high importance" the British Government attaches to "our representation in Washington."

The holder will also become the British representative on the Standing Group of the North Atlantic Military Committee, Mr. Shinwell added.

Besides the three senior British Service chiefs in the United States, the Mission includes representative of the Ministry of Supply, which supervises Britain's atomic energy research and development programme.

The Mission, which has continued since the early war years, is the liaison agency with the American Services on matters of joint interest.—Reuter.

Indian Textile Exhibition Opens In London

London, Mar. 16.—An exhibition of some of India's loveliest textiles was opened by the High Commissioner, Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon, today. He took members of the British Government and Ambassadors from many countries on a tour of the "showroom" at India House containing the greatest display of Indian cottons and silks ever seen here.

Squatters Problem In Malaya

London, Mar. 16.—The Colonial Secretary, Mr. James Griffiths, told Parliament today that settlement of the 400,000 Chinese squatters in Malaya was a formidable task which would inevitably take time.

In a written reply to a question asking what progress had been made in the matter, Mr. Griffiths said: "The principle has been accepted by the State and Settlement Governments that, wherever possible, squatters should be settled and given title to the land in the areas where they already live, but that where settlement of this kind is not possible they should be moved to other areas."

Funds have been made available by the Federation Government for roads, drainage, police and other essential services in the existing settlements and the new areas of resettlement, Mr. Griffiths said.

Voluntary Organisations, such as the Malayan Chinese Association, have helped to provide transport and building materials for the squatters.—Reuter.

COMET'S DOUBLE RECORD

London, Mar. 16.—Britain's De Havilland Comet, the world's first all-jet airliner, made a double record flight to and from Rome between breakfast and tea-time today.

With the Royal Air Force's famous wartime night-fighter pilot, Group Captain John Cunningham, at the controls, the Comet touched down at Hatfield Airport, London, this afternoon, two hours and nine minutes after leaving Rome.

Earlier today, the Comet set up a new record for the London to Rome flight in two hours and two minutes, flying at 40,000 feet at an average speed of 480 miles an hour.

The flight was described by a De Havilland official as "a normal routine test flight" to check fuel consumption and performance.

The previous London-Rome record was held by Squadron Leader Neville Duke, who made the trip in 2 hrs. 30 mins. 50-2/3 sec. in a Hawker Fury aircraft in May 1949.—Reuter.

SAN MARINO ELECTION

San Marino, Mar. 16.—The pocket republic of San Marino a 38-square mile sovereign state of 15,000 inhabitants, perched high in the Appenino Mountains, tonight elected two Chiefs of State for the next six months. Known as "the Most Excellent Capitains Regent," Giuseppe Morelli and Primo Taddei represent the Social Communists, who won the elections of February 1949.

In accordance with the Constitution, two members of the 60-man Grand Council, or Parliament, are appointed every six months to act as Regents, who wield the executive power.—Reuter.



"Take your time, Zollnick. I realize it's difficult to hear with so many prompting."

Dutch And Indonesian Ministers To Confer

The Hague, Mar. 16.—Two Dutch Cabinet Ministers are leaving here today by air for Indonesia to attend the first meeting of the Ministers of the Netherlands-Indonesia Union, which was set up during the round-table conference on Indonesia last winter.

They are Professor J. R. M. Van den Brink, Minister of Economic Affairs, and Mr. L. Goetzen, Minister Without Portfolio visiting with Overseas Territories.

The two Ministers will form the vanguard of a strong Dutch delegation which will include Mr. J. J. J. van Manneveen, Minister for Union and Realm Affairs; Professor Peter Lieftinck, Finance Minister, and a number of economic and political experts.

An advance agenda for the conference is not being drawn up. Instead, both Governments have exchanged lists of problems facing the new Union.

The Indonesian Government is expected to regard the future of New Guinea to be a priority subject for discussion. Other problems include the actual functioning of the Union and its Secretariat, economic and financial matters, joint diplomatic representation, problems arising from the withdrawal of the Dutch Army and the building up of an Indonesian Navy.

Spectacular results are not expected from the conference, which will be largely exploratory.

Many problems will almost certainly be handed over to commissions of experts for further study.—Reuter.

Kuo Mo-jo Waxes Hot Over Ban

San Francisco, Mar. 16.—The Chinese Communist Vice-Premier, Kuo Mo-jo, has called to Mr. Clement Attlee a strong protest "on behalf of the peace-loving Chinese people" against the British Government's refusal to grant visas to the Soviet and Hungarian delegates of the Permanent Committee of the World Peace Congress, according to the Peking Radio.

Kuo, who is chairman of the Chinese Committee of the Congress, told the British Prime Minister: "This unjustified action completely runs counter to the desire of the British people for peace."

Peking Radio said Kuo sent two similar cables to the French and Dutch Premiers, but using stronger language. Mr. Georges Bidault, he "demanded that this unjustified decision which violates the interests of world peace, be immediately cancelled."

"I hope it is the intention of the Government of India to organise similar exhibitions in other countries, particularly in those dollar markets to which increased exports are of the utmost importance to the Commonwealth as a whole, and especially to India."—United Press.

GANG ATTACK IN ERITREA

Asmara, Mar. 16.—A Shifta gang, 25 strong, last night attacked a gold mine some 20 miles south of Asmara. The mine is owned by Signor Guido de Rossi, President of the Italian-Eritrean Association, who is an active independent.

The gang set fire to installations and offices valued at £17,000.

The Shifta leader was reported to have said that he was an Ethiopian.

Six independentists who failed to return to Asmara from Tekeleban, 32 miles along the Keren Road, after meeting the Commission, are presumed to have fallen into the hands of the Shiftas.—Reuter.

Tibetan traders traditionally do not need passports or visas to enter India but Mr. Keskari indicated that the Government believed that the present influx was not all traders.—United Press.

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The establishment of diplomatic relations with Indonesia brings the number of countries in regular diplomatic contact with the Vatican to 39.—Reuter.

The General told a press conference: "I sincerely hope we shall get American aid for Indo-China, but it must be done through France. Otherwise it would be better to get no aid at all."

The General demanded "strategic autonomy" for France within the Atlantic Pact. He welcomed the aid being sent under the military aid programme but said: "The Atlantic Pact is essential and an indirect guarantee of our security, but the means so far made available for its application are disproportionately small."

"Nothing tells us what will be the role of France in the direction of Allied strategy in the event of war," he added. "The arms given us cannot give strategic autonomy. I am thinking especially of aviation."—Reuter.

Alluring Feature



Corinne Calvet, French screen star of the picture "My Friend Irma Goes West," poses with a bust of herself sculptured by Judith Simmons of New York. The Manhattan sculptress believes that despite all the attention focussed on legs and figure, the area between the tip of the chin and the base of the neck remains one of the most alluring features of the body. (London Express Service).

Ingrid Bergman's Husband Contests Suit For Child

Hollywood, Mar. 16.—Dr. Peter Lindstrom's lawyer charged today that film star Ingrid Bergman was "unfit" to have custody of their 12-year-old daughter. The attorney, Isaac Pacht, said Dr. Lindstrom would demand custody of the child, who "was apparently abandoned by Miss Bergman."

He added that the doctor would fight the actress' suit for custody of their daughter.

The legal battle probably will be long and bitter. Dr. Lindstrom's attorney, the former Superior Judge Isaac Pacht, said a cross-complaint for divorce and custody of their daughter Pin would be filed.

The Swedish actress left her husband and child for the island for Stromboli to make a film with the Italian director, Roberto Rossellini. She divorced Dr. Lindstrom in Mexico on February 9, a week after presenting Rossellini with son.

She filed suit in Superior Court late yesterday for custody of her daughter and return of US\$154,000 which she charged Dr. Lindstrom was holding.

SOLE INTEREST

Mr. Pacht said Dr. Lindstrom "welcomes the opportunity to present all the facts in this case to California courts." Denying that the doctor had threatened to dispose of the couple's property, Mr. Pacht said Dr. Lindstrom already had made a complete accounting of their assets to Miss Bergman and her lawyers. Such an accounting would be presented in Superior Court on March 23 in compliance with an order obtained by her counsel, he said.

He said it was impossible to estimate the number of illegal travellers accurately because mountain passes leading to India are too numerous to patrol thoroughly.

Military check posts were recently established in key Himalayan routes, and Mr. Keskari said India is taking "further steps to see that the situation will not deteriorate."

Tibetan traders traditionally do not need passports or visas to enter India but Mr. Keskari indicated that the present influx was not all traders.—United Press.

DE GAULLE WELCOMES ARMS AID

Paris, Mar. 16.—General Charles de Gaulle today expressed the hope that United States help would be made available for Indo-China.

The General told a press conference: "I sincerely hope we shall get American aid for Indo-China, but it must be done through France. Otherwise it would be better to get no aid at all."

The General demanded "strategic autonomy" for France within the Atlantic Pact. He welcomed the aid being sent under the military aid programme but said: "The Atlantic Pact is essential and an indirect guarantee of our security, but the means so far made available for its application are disproportionately small."

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U.S. Economic Politics Lack Co-ordination

Washington, Mar. 16.—The State Department is leading a campaign for the United States to put its own economic house in order before the next Anglo-American dollar talks begin. This results from numerous foreign complaints that the United States fails to co-ordinate its economic policies and sometimes leaves European states caught in a squeeze.

The State Department is urging prompt creation of an inter-departmental committee to direct economic policies in the cold war. Its recommendation is at present before the Budget Bureau, and must win President Truman's approval before it can go into effect.

The State Department wants its representatives to work hand in glove with officials of the Treasury, Commerce, Agricultural and other departments in co-ordinating American policies.

For years the Department has been espousing free trade among all countries of the world, and led two great tariff cutting conferences that affected 33 countries. But it discovered that some other agency thwarted its schemes.

For instance, the Department negotiated lower tariff rates on butter from Denmark and in return got tariff concessions on American goods; nevertheless, Denmark thought lower American tariffs would allow Danish butter to sell in the United States, but it did not work out that way. The Agriculture Department, as part of its support of farm prices, persuaded Congress to ban the importation of butter as long as it is surplus here. That will be a long time.

Denmark is complaining to the State Department with a reference of skull-duggery in Washington.

The Yemen Protests To London

London, Mar. 16.—Mohammed Abdullah Al Ahri, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Yemen, has delivered a protest to the British Foreign Office against the alleged supply of arms by British sources to tribes in the Hadramaut, Southern Arabia, according to a usually reliable source today.

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